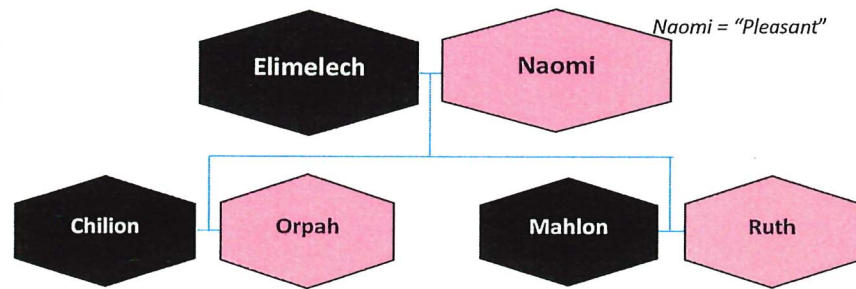
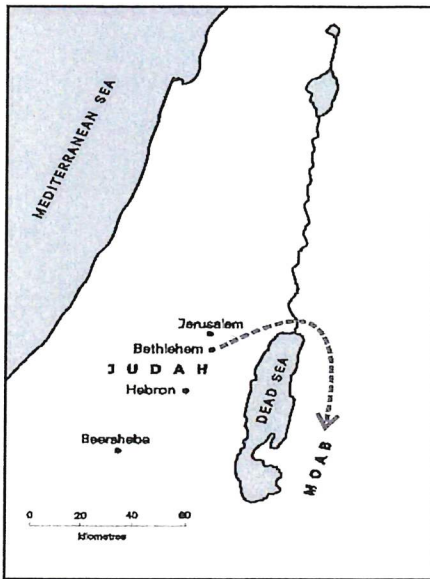


Ruth Chapter 3



NAOMI'S SPIRITUAL SHIFT

BEFORE	NOW
<p>No, my daughters, for it is exceedingly bitter to me for your sake that the hand of the LORD has gone out against me." 1:13</p> <p>²⁰ She said to them, "Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. ²¹ I went away full, and the LORD has brought me back empty. 1:20-21</p> <p>...the LORD has testified against me and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?" 1:21</p> <p>² And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain after him in whose sight I shall find favor." And she said to her, "Go, my daughter." 2:2</p>	<p>²⁰ And Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, "May he be blessed by the LORD, whose kindness has not forsaken the living or the dead!" 2:20</p>

Ruth 2:19-20

¹⁹ And her mother-in-law said to her, "Where did you glean today? And where have you worked? Blessed be the man who took notice of you." So she told her mother-in-law with whom she had worked and said, "The man's name with whom I worked today is Boaz." ²⁰ And Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, "May he be blessed by the LORD, whose kindness has not forsaken the living or the dead!" Naomi also said to her, "**The man is a close relative of ours, one of our redeemers.**"

The Kinsman Redeemer

- Set up in Mosaic law (Lev 25:25-55)
- Male member of the family who rescues another member (usually a woman) who has fallen on hard times
- Obligation to safeguard family regarding:
 - Continuation of the family
 - Land & property in the Promised Land

Could/Should:

- Restore property
- Buy back relatives if enslaved in debt
- Assist in a lawsuit; ensure justice was served for a relative

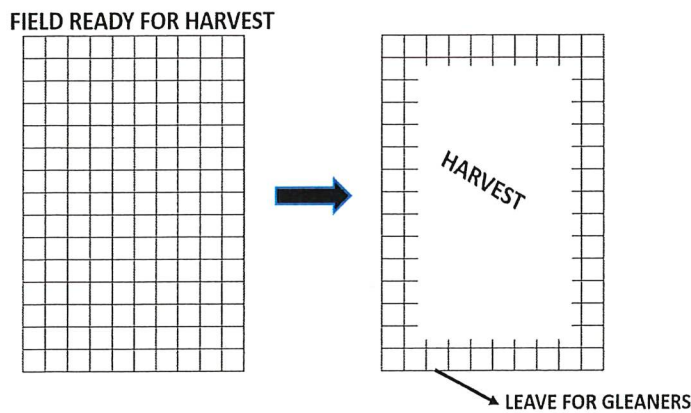
Levirate Law:

- Brother marries his dead brother's widow; provides/protects in every way
- Propagates heirs
- Heirs and their inheritance continues to be associated with the deceased brother's name (not the redeemer)

In the case with Ruth, the Levirate law (marrying Ruth) doesn't really apply:

- Boaz was not a brother to Ruth's husband
- Does not address a foreigner who, illegally, marries into the family
- ** There are plenty of loopholes, if not solid arguments, for Boaz to use to avoid marrying Ruth

"Gleaning"



Ruth 2:23

So she kept close to the young women of Boaz, gleaning until the end of the barley and wheat harvests. And she lived with her mother-in-law.

3 Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, "My daughter, should I not seek rest for you, that it may be well with you? ²Is not Boaz our relative, with whose young women you were? See, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor. ³Wash therefore and anoint yourself, and put on your cloak and go down to the threshing floor, but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. ⁴But when he lies down, observe the place where he lies. Then go and uncover his feet and lie down, and he will tell you what to do." ⁵And she replied, "All that you say I will do."

Naomi is focused on finding Ruth a place of *provision & protection*. *True Rest*

Chapter 1	Chapter 2	Chapter 3
⁸ ..."Go, return each of you to her mother's house... ⁹ The LORD grant that you may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband!"	And she lived with her mother-in-law.	"My daughter, should I not seek rest for you, that it may be well with you?"

You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you." Augustine of Hippo

²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Matt 11:29



Threshing floor

- A flat hard surface work area
- Grain or barely is crushed by tools or an animal walking on it— and it's dislodged from the chaff
- usually located in a windy spot

Winnowing Barley

- process of separating the chaff from the grain
- Toss it in the air and wind blows away chaff, bugs, etc...

⁶So she went down to the threshing floor and did just as her mother-in-law had commanded her. ⁷And when Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was merry, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain. Then she came softly and uncovered his feet and lay down. ⁸At midnight the man was startled and turned over, and behold, a woman lay at his feet! ⁹He said, "Who are you?" And she answered, "I am Ruth, your servant. Spread your wings over your servant, for you are a redeemer." ¹⁰And he said, "May you be blessed by the LORD, my daughter. You have made this last kindness greater than the first in that you have not gone after young men, whether poor or rich. ¹¹And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you ask, for all my fellow townsmen know that you are a worthy woman. ¹²And now it is true that I am a redeemer. Yet there is a redeemer nearer than I. ¹³Remain tonight, and in the morning, if he will redeem you, good; let him do it. But if he is not willing to redeem you, then, as the LORD lives, I will redeem you. Lie down until the morning."

Ezekiel 16

⁴And as for your birth, on the day you were born your cord was not cut, nor were you washed with water to cleanse you, nor rubbed with salt, nor wrapped in swaddling cloths. ⁵No eye pitied you, to do any of these things to you out of compassion for you, but you were cast out on the open field, for you were abhorred, on the day that you were born.

⁶"And when I passed by you and saw you wallowing in your blood, I said to you in your blood, 'Live!' I said to you in your blood, 'Live!' ⁷I made you flourish like a plant of the field. And you grew up and became tall and arrived at full adornment. Your breasts were formed, and your hair had grown; yet you were naked and bare.

⁸"When I passed by you again and saw you, behold, you were at the age for love, and *I spread the corner of my garment over you and covered your nakedness; I made my vow to you and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Lord GOD, and you became mine.*

"Ruth and Boaz were strong. They were not enslaved to their desires. Their desires were great and greatly governed by God-given commitments. They sent their culturally appropriate and provocative signals. This is what we want. Then they enclosed those desires in righteousness and stored them up for a God-given day of greater pleasure. This is a man and a woman of great character."

John Piper
Sex, Race, and the Sovereignty of God

"[Boaz's response] has enchanted the centuries—a tenderness sweetly discriminating, morally meticulous, wide-hearted and ripe."

Cynthia Ozick
Metaphor and Memory

Looking back on Naomi's plan for Ruth:

"Anybody who thinks that a loose woman and a finagling mother-in-law are at work here is missing something beautiful. All is subtle. All is righteous. All is strategic."

John Piper
Sex, Race, and the Sovereignty of God

¹⁴So she lay at his feet until the morning, but arose before one could recognize another. And he said, "Let it not be known that the woman came to the threshing floor." ¹⁵And he said, "Bring the garment you are wearing and hold it out." So she held it, and he measured out six measures of barley and put it on her. Then she went into the city. ¹⁶And when she came to her mother-in-law, she said, "How did you fare, my daughter?" Then she told her all that the man had done for her, ¹⁷saying, "These six measures of barley he gave to me, for he said to me, 'You must not go back empty-handed to your mother-in-law.'" ¹⁸She replied, "Wait, my daughter, until you learn how the matter turns out, for the man will not rest but will settle the matter today."